



Legislature of the Virgin Islands

Vargrave Richards
Vice President

Chairman
Committee on Education

Committee Member
Health
Housing, Parks & Recreation
Rules
Youth & Human Services

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#1 Lagoon Street Complex
Frederiksted, St. Croix 00840
TEL (809) 773-2424
FAX (809) 773-4748

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 30, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W. , Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20544

RECEIVED

JUN 10 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

On behalf of the students of the Virgin Islands, I would like to ask you for your support to ensure that all schools have affordable access to the Information Superhighway. As the Chairman of the Committee on Education for the 22nd Legislature, I would like to also pledge my support for the implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and other technology initiatives that are essential tools in contemporary classrooms.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that students all over the country will have the opportunity to get on-line and gather information from all over the world. The discount plan will save our schools over \$2.25 billion a year, which may be used to fund other important education mandates.

In the Virgin Islands, the Department of Education received a grant which enabled volunteers to wire four of the territory's public schools. The department plans to wire each of the territory's 33 public schools within the next two years. This discount plan will ensure that once our schools are wired, our students will have greater access to the Internet.

I urge the FCC to fully support the Federal-State Joint Board's discount plan for universal, affordable, Internet access for schools and libraries. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Vargrave

Vargrave Richards
Chairman
Committee on Education

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JUN 10 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

March 4, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20054

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act--through its Universal Service Fund provisions--mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

There is not doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all of our nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century.

At St. John the Baptist Parochial School, in Silver Spring, Maryland, it is our understanding that the wiring cost could be additionally expensive because of asbestos removal requirements.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

We urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The May Department Stores Company
Office of Legal Counsel

Frank J. Williams, Jr.
Vice President
Public Affairs

VIA AIRBORNE EXPRESS AND FACSIMILE

May 2, 1997

Chairman Reed E. Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

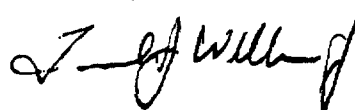
Dear Chairman Hundt:

My name is Frank J. Williams, Jr., and I am the Vice President of Public Affairs and Senior Counsel of The May Department Stores Company ("May"), a retail department store company with 366 stores in 30 states and the District of Columbia and over 111,000 employees. I am writing to express May's concern about the Federal Communications Commissions proposed action to establish a "Fair and Equitable Rate Charge" of \$4.50 per line per month for the first year and \$6.00 per line per month for the second year on business users of multi-line telephones. The impact of this proposed charge on companies such as May would be substantial, particularly when combined with the proposed increase in the subscriber line charge. For smaller retailers, the increase would be even more dramatic.

While May understands that the purpose of the increase in rates is to fund the wiring of schools and libraries for Internet access, we do not understand the rationale of placing such a substantial burden for such programs on businesses. The impact from the new charges on larger and smaller retailers would be in the tens of millions of dollars per year. Such increases in costs by retailers could ultimately mean increased costs to consumers, which would not create any long term benefit to the general public.

We ask that you consider the serious impact the new rates will have, not only on the business community, but on the public as a whole and that you encourage the Federal Communications Commission not to take an action which would have such a substantially negative impact on business and private citizens. If you have any questions concerning May's position on this issue, or if I can provide any additional information, please call me at (314) 342-6461.

Sincerely



Frank J. Williams, Jr.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

March 4, 1997

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1919 M St. NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20054

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**Purdue University**

JUN 10 1997

Agricultural Communication Service

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Voice (765) 496-1117
FAX (765) 496-1117**FAX**

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

TO: Reed E. Hundt, Federal Communications Commission
FAX # (202) 418-2801
FROM: Dave King, Department Head
Agricultural Communication
DATE: May 7, 1997
RE: Universal Service Fund Comment
Ex Parte Communication in CC Docket No. 96-262

Total Pages (including cover sheet):2

In response to request for comment on the Universal Service Fund of the 1996 Telecom Act, we suggest that the local educational foundation which can draw on this fund for high speed data connections be expanded to include the more than 3000 county Extension offices nationwide.

Rationale below:

Cooperative Extension Offices—Part of a Three Way Community Educational Foundation

The Cooperative Extension Service is made up of community-based educational centers in every county of Indiana. These county extension offices are sources of education and information for citizens of Indiana. The county extension educators who live in these communities collaborate with and extend beyond the traditional boundaries of K-12 and libraries.

Although regularly misidentified as the "agricultural" Extension service, county extension offices provide information and education for consumers, leaders and businesses in every community across the state. Beyond the traditionally well known areas of agriculture and food production, county extension educators provide educational opportunities in many areas of leadership development, consumer issues, and family issues—the basic fabric of local communities.

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FCC Fax

May 7, 1997

page 2

Among the educational opportunities and programs are available from county educators are:

- aging society issues
- careers and job training
- child care
- economic development
- environmental education
- solid wastes management
- water quality
- interpersonal relations
- leadership development
- nutrition and health
- science education

In Indiana alone the last year, the more than 240 county extension educators participated in a total of more than 4 million educational contacts statewide. This includes one-on-one, workshops and seminars, and telephone contacts. In addition 20,000 people statewide volunteer as educators and leaders with gardeners, 4-H clubs, consumers, and community leaders. This can be multiplied by each state.

The Cooperative Extension Service is part of a land-grant university network connecting every county in every state with every other county in every other state. The educational materials and programs which are used at the community level are developed by faculty and staff at land-grant universities through out the country. These programs are developed in direct response to the community needs as identified by county extension educators at the grassroots level.

This issue is how to characterize the county extension service. Our concern is that the Cooperative Extension Service, with county extension offices in every county of the state be clearly recognized a part of the three-way educational foundation of every community—K-12 schools, libraries, *and* county extension offices. Reaching out more than 4 million times each year with education and information—sometimes independently and many times in collaboration with schools and libraries—in broad-based areas that improve adult and young people's capabilities and quality of life clearly makes the case for this recognition.

Our FAX number is (317) 496-1117
If you have problems, please call (317) 494-8396

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CC: 96-45

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March 5, 1997

JUN 10 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

CC: Docket No 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write in strong support of affordable and meaningful discounts for all schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The passage of the Telecommunications Act earlier this year mandates the development of a rate for education or an "e-rate" to secure affordable rates reflecting the financial capability of this community.

There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination, and leveling the playing field for this nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long learners can connect with the technology needed to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century.

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I urge you to act upon this historic opportunity to bring the world of information to every school child and life-long learner in America.

Sincerely,

*Saint Anthony School
Parent Organization Board
San Gabriel, California*

Frances Hamilton

*Ray R. [Signature]
Bracela [Signature]*

M. [Signature] Hammerbacher

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*Le O. [Signature]
Lorina [Signature]*

Olga [Signature]

William P. [Signature]

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March 5, 1997

JUN 10 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

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Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

CC: Docket No 96-45

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Sincerely,



Principal,
St. Anthony School
San Gabriel, CA

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

Marty Martinez, Executive Director
Luis Olivas, President

Adrianza

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Adrianza, M.D.
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Federal Communications Commission
Chairman Reed Hundt
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

April 14, 1997

Dear Chairman Hundt:

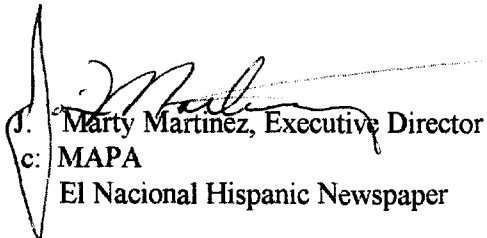
We have recently learned that Southwestern Bell Telephone Company has applied for a Long Distance Carrier's license from the Federal Communications Commission and we would like to inform you of our support on behalf of Southwestern Bell.

As a research institution we are very mindful of the advertising and other claims made by many businesses interested in increasing their customer base and in turn, profits for their stock holders. This is to be expected as an American way of life and we applaud it. But, we must also hold these businesses accountable for the type of service that they deliver at the most affordable price to the consumer. There are several ways that we can measure solid businesses with a strong commitment to the public. Two important ways are their established history and their continued innovations at providing quality service at competitive prices.

This Southwestern Bell Telephone has done here in Oklahoma with their local telephone service, and we believe that they will continue to do so with Long-distance service if given the opportunity. Southwestern Bell Telephone is more than a business in Oklahoma. It is a community partner in every sense of the word whether it is with schools, churches, hospitals, or non-profit agencies. Established businesses such as Southwestern Bell must be given the opportunity to continue to grow and to compete at every technological level. When that is done, we all profit.

Thank you for allowing me to write and express our opinion on this important subject.

Sincerely,


J. Marty Martinez, Executive Director
c: MAPA
El Nacional Hispanic Newspaper

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HISPANIC PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS INSTITUTE

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JUN 10 1997

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C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger EX PARTE OR LATE FILED
Baltimore County Executive

Executive Office
400 Washington Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204
(410) 887-2450
Fax: (410) 887-4049

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20544

May 6, 1997

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JUN 10 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I was recently informed by our local telephone company about the proposals under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission regarding the Universal Service Fund. Since some of these proposals could negatively impact the citizens of Baltimore County, I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the recommendations.

It is my understanding that in almost all of the variations proposed by the Joint Board's Recommended High Cost Fund, Maryland is designated as a net contributor to the fund. Since the recommended levels are higher than for the existing fund, Marylanders would, in effect, be subsidizing telecommunications subscribers in other states.

I urge the Federal Communications Commission to examine a more equitable way of dispersing the increased fee so that those receiving the services are providing the funding for them. The Maryland Public Service Commission has worked very hard to develop a competitive market for telecommunications carriers and an unfair ruling on the Universal Service Fund could hamper the progress we have made in this critical area. At this point, I encourage you to reconvene the Joint Board and further revisit this issue so that all of the affected parties have the opportunity to voice their concerns, discuss available options and develop a reasonable solution.

I appreciate your time in considering my comments and wish you much success in your endeavors.

Sincerely,

C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger

C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
County Executive

CADR:tlo

c: Ms. Donora L. Dingman, Manager, External Affairs, Bell Atlantic

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA - STATE AND CONSUMER SERVICES AGENCY

PETE WILSON, Governor



BUREAU OF AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR
400 R STREET, SUITE 3000, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
PHONE: (916) 445-7964



June 2, 1997

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JUN 10 1997

FCC MAIL ROOM

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Mr. Jim Stukey
Jim's Auto Repair
1034 13th Street
Richmond, California 94801

Dear Mr. Stukey:

Thank you for your letter of May 9, 1997 regarding your concerns about the proposal from the Federal Communications Commission to raise the cost of second telephone lines.

I agree with you that many businesses, including Smog Check stations, need to have two telephone lines to operate effectively and efficiently. However, this proposal (CC Docket No. 96-45) to raise the cost of second telephone lines is outside the scope of the Department of Consumer Affairs/Bureau of Automotive Repair's (DCA/BAR) jurisdiction.

Because the Federal Communications Commission has jurisdiction over and administers this matter, I have taken the liberty to forward your letter to them and should you wish to contact them for further information the following is their address, telephone number, and web address:

Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street
Washington, D.C. 20554
Attention: Secretary of the FCC
1-888-225-5322 or (202) 418-0500
<http://www.fcc.gov>

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns.

Sincerely,

K. Martin Keller

K. Martin Keller

KMK:mg

cc: Federal Communications Commission

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Jim Stukey

510-234-7174

05/09/1997 11:50:26 PM P.1

5/28/97

Marty Keller

1997

Bearu Chief

Bearu of Automotive Repair

May 9,

Mr. Keller,

I am asking for your support. I run a Smog inspection station in Richmond. There is a proposal to raise the costs of a second telephone line. I am asking you to oppose this. All Smog inspection shops have to have this second line for our smog machines. I feel that this increase is unfair to people doing business. The FCC has said that "kids use this to surf the net" I think that this narrow minded thinking has overlooked the fact it's the 90's and we need our second line to do our jobs. I have already called my Congressman, George Miller. Please help us in opposing this proposal.

Thank You

Jim Stukey

1034 13th st

Richmond, Ca 94801

Jim's Auto repair / AK149552

